

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-27 are pending. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 11, 14, 22 and 23 are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied reference.

Claims 22 and 23 also are amended in a manner similar to what was done in the non-entered January 12 Amendment After Final Rejection. No new matter is added.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is requested to consider the reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,323) identified in the attached Information Disclosure Statement, and to return an initialed PTO 1449 with the next Patent Office communication.

II. All Pending Claims are Patentable

Claims 1, 11, 12 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,263,106 to Yamagata. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yamagata does not disclose or suggest the combinations of features recited in the independent claims of this application. In particular, Yamagata does not disclose or suggest an arrangement in which an internal storage device is caused to store basic image data and simplified image data and also is controlled to delete the basic image data from the internal storage device without deleting the simplified image data from the internal storage device after the basic image data has been transmitted to an external storage device. The Office Action asserts that the image data memory 35 of Yamagata corresponds to the claimed internal storage device and that the IC memory card M of Yamagata corresponds to the claimed external storage device. However, the apparatus of Yamagata does not store/delete basic and/or simplified image data in these memories in the manner recited in the independent claims of this application.

In response to Applicant's January 13, 2006 Amendment After Final Rejection, the Examiner, in the Advisory Action, appears to place great emphasis on what occurs in steps

S166 and S167 of Yamagata. However, as described in Applicant's previous response, and as reiterated below, steps S166 and S167 do not result in deletion of basic image data from the internal storage device (the image memory 35 of Yamagata) without deleting the simplified image data from the internal storage device (again, the image memory 35 of Yamagata) after the transmission device has transmitted the basic image data to the external storage device (the IC memory card M of Yamagata), as even more clearly recited in Applicant's claims. Accordingly, all pending claims of this application are patentable over Yamagata, either alone or when combined with the other references.

A photographic mode in which digital photos are taken and stored in the Yamagata device is described, for example, at col. 8, line 58 - col. 9, line 58. When a digital photograph is taken, the digital image data (uncompressed) is initially stored in image data memory 35. See col. 9, lines 22-26. The image data is then stored in IC memory card M. The image data that is stored in IC memory card M is either compressed or not compressed depending on the camera settings. See, for example, col. 9, lines 27-35. Thus, when in the photographing mode, only uncompressed (basic) image data captured by the camera is stored in image data memory 35. When operating in the photographing mode, basic image data and simplified image data are not stored in image data memory 35, which the Office Action identifies as allegedly corresponding to the claimed internal storage device. Moreover, Yamagata does not indicate what happens to the original image data stored in image data memory 35 after compressed or uncompressed image data is stored in the IC memory card M. Thus, the photographing mode of Yamagata does not cause the image data memory 35 to store basic image data and simplified image data and also does not cause the image data memory 35 to delete basic image data without deleting simplified image data after transmission of basic image data to the IC memory card M.

A card data compression mode is described at col. 10, line 16 - col. 12, line 3 of Yamagata. When the camera operates in this mode, images previously stored in the IC memory card M can be selected for further compression (unless further compression of such images is inhibited) in order to provide more storage space in the IC memory card M. In this mode, an image already present in the IC memory card M is selected for further compression (see col. 11, lines 39-40) and then is transmitted to and stored in image data memory 35 in its uncompressed state (if the image in IC memory card M was compressed, it is expanded prior to being stored in image data memory 35). See col. 11, lines 39-42. The image in image data memory 35 is then compressed and stored in image data memory 35. See col. 11, lines 42-61. The system then deletes the original image from the IC memory card M and then transfers the compressed image from the image data memory 35 to the IC memory card M so as to replace the larger image that was deleted from the IC memory card M. See col. 11, line 65 - col. 12, line 3.

Although, as noted above, compressed image data is stored in image data memory 35 after that image in uncompressed form has been stored in image data memory 35, Yamagata does not indicate whether the compressed version of the image overwrites the uncompressed version in image data memory 35 or whether both the uncompressed and compressed versions of the image are stored in image data memory 35. Thus, it is not clear whether basic image data and simplified image data are stored in image data memory 35 when the Yamagata device operates in the card data compression mode. Moreover, and regardless of whether the compressed image data and the uncompressed image data are stored in image data memory 35, Yamagata does not teach or suggest that basic image data (the uncompressed image data of Yamagata) present in image data memory 35 is deleted from image data memory 35 without deleting the simplified image data (the compressed image data of Yamagata) from image data memory 35 when basic image data is transferred from the image data memory 35

to the IC memory card M. In fact, when operating in the card data compression mode, the simplified image data (the Yamagata compressed image data) and not the basic image data (the uncompressed Yamagata image data) is transferred from the image data memory 35 to the IC memory card M of Yamagata. Thus, when in the card data compression mode, Yamagata does not disclose or suggest deleting basic image data from the image data memory 35 without deleting simplified image data from image data memory 35 after the basic image data is transferred from image data memory 35 to IC memory card M.

Yamagata is concerned with saving storage space in IC memory card M, which the Office Action alleges to correspond to the claimed external memory device. Applicant's claims are directed to arrangements that seek to save storage space in an internal storage device. Thus, Yamagata does not disclose or suggest the combinations of features recited in independent claims 1, 11, 14, 22 and 23 of this application. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamagata. This rejection is respectfully traversed. These claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to their independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamagata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,532,039 to Anderson. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Anderson does not overcome the deficiencies in Yamagata discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 11 from which these claims depend. Thus, claims 17 and 19 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to their corresponding independent claims 1 and 11. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 2, 5-8, 13-16, 18, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamagata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,784,925 to Tomat et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Tomat et al. does not provide the deficiencies noted above in Yamagata with

respect to the independent claims of this application. Accordingly, these claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 11, 14, 22 and 23. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 10, 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamagata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,400,392 to Yamaguchi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Yamaguchi et al. does not provide the deficiencies noted above in Yamagata with respect to independent claims 1, 22 and 23 from which these claims depend. Thus, these claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 22 and 23.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Attachments:

Information Disclosure Statement
Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: February 17, 2006

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